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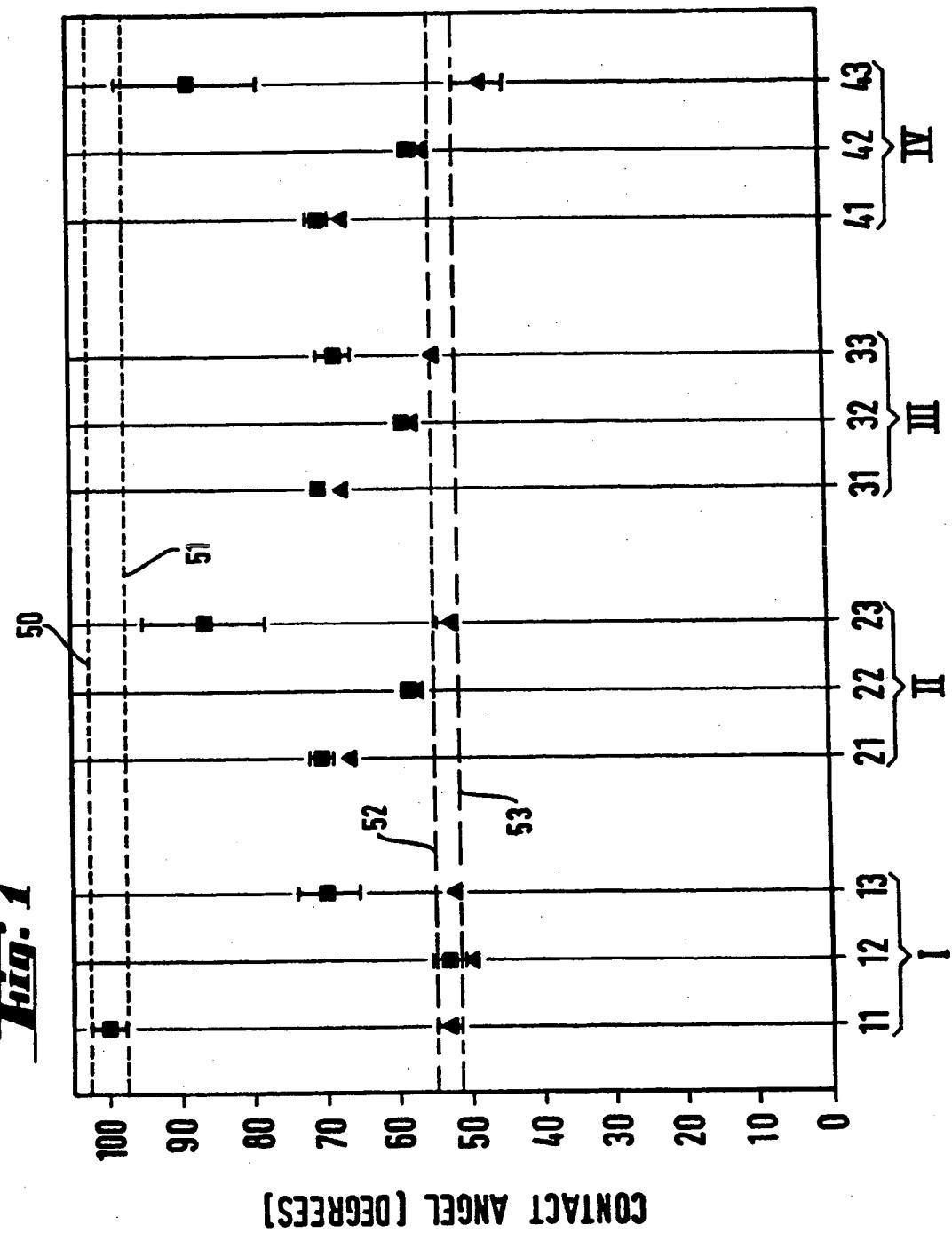
(54) Improved conditioning solution for contact lenses and a method of using the same.

(57) A contact lens conditioning solution which has a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant (Poloxamine type) having a hydrophilic-lipophile balance of seven or below and a carrier vehicle. A polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant (Poloxamer type) having a hydrophilic-lipophile balance of seven or below and a polyoxyethylene concentration of less than about 20 % by weight of the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant may also be included in the solution.

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Fig. 1



CONTACT ANGLE (DEGREES)

IMPROVED CONDITIONING SOLUTION FOR CONTACT LENSES AND A METHOD OF USING THE SAME

The present invention relates to an improved contact lens conditioning solution. More particularly, it relates to a solution which renders the contact lens surface more wettable so that proteins, lipids and other tear film substituents do not adhere and form deposits on the lens surface, and to the manufacture and use of such solution.

5 Contact lenses are typically made of plastic and, therefore, are hydrophobic or water repellent. Since the use of the first contact lenses, there has been a recognized need to use conditioning agents for contact lenses to render the contact lenses more hydrophilic or "wettable". The purpose of these conditioning agents is to render the lens surface more wettable so that proteins, lipids, and other tear film substituents do not adhere and form deposits thereon. Such deposits reduce the comfort and safety of the lens, and also interfere with optical clarity since it is important that the tear fluids spread evenly over the surface of the lens.

10 Hard contact lenses, such as those fabricated from polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), are of such firmness that contamination can be removed by mechanical means, such as by rubbing a lens soaked in cleaning solution between one's fingers. However, soft contact lenses, such as those fabricated from hydrophilic materials, such as 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA), and some rigid gas permeable (RGP) material lenses, require greater care in removing deposits since cleaning solutions can be absorbed and concentrated in the lens and because 15 the soft lenses are more apt to tear or suffer other damage during mechanical cleaning.

20 Presently, an enzymatic cleaner comprising a proteolytic enzyme, such as papain, which is effective in removing proteinaceous deposits from the contact lens surface, is relied upon to provide a clean lens. The enzyme is typically provided in a kit with vials, into which are placed enzyme tablets. The tablets are dissolved in saline, distilled water or hydrogen peroxide, of e.g. 3 %, and the lenses are typically soaked from between 2 to 6 hours. Following enzymatic cleaning, it is necessary to disinfect the contact lens. A problem exists, however, in that the use of enzymes is expensive and can be quite inconvenient.

25 Therefore, there exists a need for a conditioning solution which renders a contact lens surface more wettable so that proteins, lipids and other tear film substituents do not adhere thereto and form deposits. There is a further need for such a solution which may be used on hard, RGP and hydrogel (soft) contact lenses. Such a conditioning solution would greatly enhance the cleaning operations now required.

30 Fig. 1 summarizes the results of experiments in which RGP lenses were conditioned according to the present invention in comparison to other or no conditioning :

Fig. 2 summarizes the results of experiments in which PMMA lenses were conditioned according to the present invention in comparison to other or no conditioning ; and

35 Fig. 3 summarizes the results of experiments in which HEMA lenses were conditioned according to the present invention in comparison to other or no conditioning.

The present invention relates to a conditioning solution for contact lenses which comprises an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophile balance of seven or below. These surfactants preferably have a molecular weight of between about 3,600 and about 9,000. Such surfactants are typically known generally as "Poloxamine", and sold under the trademark Tetrosilics® (BASF-Wyandotte Corp.). Preferred are those solutions wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant has a polyoxyethylene concentration between about 10 % and about 20 % by weight.

40 The solution may also have an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant having a hydrophilic-lipophile balance of seven or below and a polyoxyethylene concentration of less than about 20 % by weight. Such surfactants are generally known as "Poloxamers" and sold under the trademark Pluronics® (BASF-Wyandotte Corp.). They typically have a molecular weight of between about 2,000 and about 5,000.

45 The solution according to the present invention forms a uniform hydrophilic film on a lens surface for which proteins and lipids have very little affinity. As such, a contact lens contacted by the solution will have a coating which provides a prophylactic-effect to the lens.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a conditioning solution which renders a contact lens surface more wettable so that proteins, lipids and other tear film substituents do not adhere thereto and form deposits.

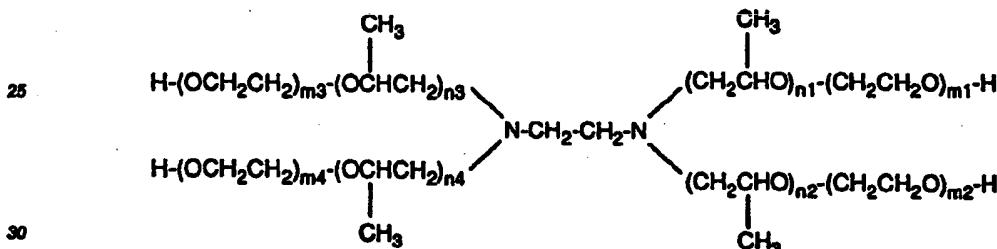
50 It is a further object of the present invention to provide for such a solution which may be used on hard, RGP and soft contact lenses.

The present invention provides a prophylactic action in preventing and/or retarding tear film deposits on the surfaces of contact lenses. The ingredients form a uniform hydrophilic film on the lens surface for which

proteins and lipids have very little affinity. Furthermore, although some minor amounts of tear film substituents may adhere to the film, the protective film can be sacrificially removed, along with any adherence, by digitally cleaning the contact lens with any appropriate contact lens cleaner. The removal of the sacrificial film is virtually complete so that the contact lens is "renewed" to its native clean state. It is envisioned that the present solution may be used separately from other ophthalmic solutions, or may also be incorporated into a cleaning, conditioning or disinfecting solution, thus aiding in compliance with existing protocols rather than adding an extra solution, product or care step to achieve the desired prophylactic results.

The polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant and the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant are both surface active agents which have as low a hydrophilic-lipophile balance (HLB) as will be tolerated in the formulations. The low HLB values in the surface active agent indicate a high affinity for hydrophobic (lipophilic) surfaces. These surface active agents strongly adhere to those hydrophobic regions of the contact lens and render them hydrophilic. This adherence forms a "barrier" to potential absorbance, and keeps them from the surface of the lens. Furthermore, this increase in hydrophilicity simultaneously decreases the thermodynamic driving force for protein and lipid absorption, thereby retarding tear film deposits.

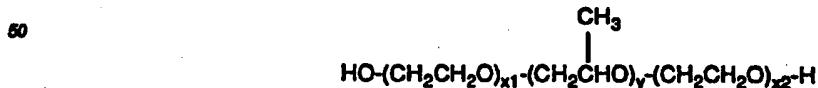
As mentioned hereinbefore the poloxamine type surfactants are more commonly known as Tetronic® type surfactants. The Tetronic® type surfactant is a tetrafunctional block copolymer derived from the sequential addition of propylene oxide and ethylene oxide to ethylenediamine, and is represented by the following structure :



wherein n1 to n4 and m1 to m4 are numbers being a function of the desired molecular weight and the ratio of ethyleneoxy groups to propyleneoxy groups. The preparation thereof can be found in U.S. Patent No. 2,979,528, which is incorporated herein by reference. For convenience purposes, these nonionic surfactants will be identified generally as Tetronic®, with a numeral suffix to identify a particular grade of material as available from BASF-Wyandotte Corp.

It has been surprisingly discovered that only tetrronics having a hydrophilic-lipophile balance of seven or below are suitable for use in the conditioning solution of the present invention. Such tetrronics typically have the molecular weight of between about 3,600 and about 9,000 and include Tetronic 701 ; 702 ; 901 ; 1101 ; 1102 ; 1301 ; 1302 ; 1501 ; and 1502 from BASF-Wyandotte.

The poloxamer type surfactants comprise a series of closely related block polymers that may generally be classified as polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene condensates terminating in hydroxyl groups. They are formed by the condensation of propylene oxide onto a propylene glyconucleus followed by the condensation of ethylene oxide onto both ends of polyoxypropylene base. The polyoxyethyl hydrophilic groups on the ends of the molecule are controlling length to constitute anywhere from 10 % to 80 % by weight of the final molecule. The structure of the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant is preferably as follows :



wherein x1, x2 and y are numbers being a function of the desired molecular weight and the ratio of ethyleneoxy groups to propyleneoxy groups. For convenience purposes, these nonionic surfactants will be referred to herein as Pluronic® generally, with a numerical suffix to identify a particular grade of material as available from BASF-Wyandotte Corp.

It has further been discovered that the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant useful in the present invention must have a HLB of seven or below and a polyoxyethylene concentration of less than about 20 % by weight. Such preferred surfactants include Pluronic L61, L81, L101 and L121 from BASF-Wyandotte

Corp. These polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactants have a molecular weight of between about 2,000 and about 5,000.

5 The polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant may be present in an amount up to 1 % by volume of the solution, and preferably at approximately 0.6 %. Furthermore, the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant may be present in an amount up to about 1.0 % by weight of the solution, with the preferred amount being approximately 0.2 % by volume.

10 The conditioning solution is ocularly compatible and may be used on hard, rigid gas-permeable (RGP), and soft contact lenses. The active ingredients may be in any of a number of carrier vehicles. For example, the solution may be used in a soaking conditioning solution with or without a preservative or disinfecting agent.

To prevent agglomeration of oils on a lens in the eye, as is common among patients who wear make-up, an ocularly compatible surfactant, preferably having an HLB higher than about 7, may be added to the solution. For example, polysorbate 60, polysorbate 80, poloxamer F127 or poloxamer F107 may be used for this purpose.

15 The lens could be soaked in the solution to allow the active ingredients to absorb to the lens surface and/or the internal matrix. Alternatively, the solution may be placed in an eye drop solution, which may also be dispensed with or without a preservative or disinfecting agent. The drop would be applied to the lens while being worn on the eye. Furthermore, the conditioning solution may be placed within a contact lens cleaning solution, which would deliver the active ingredients while the lens is being cleaned. In this type of formulation, the active 20 ingredient would not be used to clean, and other detergent agents should also be provided.

In view of the various different methods of using the solutions of the present invention, these solutions may comprise further ingredients conveniently and typically used for lens care solutions. These typical ingredients comprise for example buffering agents, e.g. phosphates or borates, tonicity adjusting agents, e.g. salts such as alkali metal halogenides, preferably sodium chloride, sterilizing agents, e.g. hydrogen peroxide, stabilizers 25 for such agents, e.g. stannates, or agents for decomposing sterilizing peroxides, e.g. catalysts, such as catalase.

The following examples are provided to illustrate the invention in a number of carrier vehicles. In each example, the ingredients (each numerical value represents percent by weight if not indicated otherwise) are put in purified water, thoroughly mixed and stirred and dissolved to form an aqueous solution. The pH of the 30 solution is adjusted to an ocularly acceptable level to obtain the desired composition.

Example 1 : Disinfectant

- 35 a) 30.0 mg/ml hydrogen peroxide (31 % solution)
- b) Hydrogen peroxide stabilizer (such as sodium stannate)
- c) Buffering salts
- d) 0.06 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
- e) 0.04 mg/ml polysorbate 80 (Tween 80)
- f) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 2 : Disinfectant

- 40 a) 30.0 mg/ml hydrogen peroxide (31 % solution)
- b) Hydrogen peroxide stabilizer (such as sodium stannate)
- c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
- d) 0.003 mg/ml poloxamer 401 (Pluronic®)
- e) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 3 : Disinfectant

- 50 a) 30.0 mg/ml hydrogen peroxide (31 % solution)
- b) Hydrogen peroxide stabilizer (such as sodium stannate)
- c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
- d) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 4 : Disinfectant Neutralizer

- a) Buffering salts
- b) 0.002 mg/ml disodium EDTA
- c) 0.06 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)

- 5 d) 0.04 mg/ml polysorbate 80
e) 0.001 mg/ml sorbic acid
f) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity
g) Catalase enzyme (700,000 activity units/l)
h) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 5 : Disinfectant Neutralizer

- 10 a) Buffering salts
b) 0.002 mg/ml disodium EDTA
c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
d) 0.01 mg/ml sorbic acid
15 e) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity
f) Catalase enzyme (700,000 activity units/l)
g) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 6 : Disinfectant Neutralizer

- 20 a) Buffering salts
b) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
c) 0.003 mg/ml poloxamer 401 (Pluronic®)
d) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity
25 e) Catalase enzyme (700,000 activity units/l)
f) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 7 : Preserved Saline or Eye Drops

- 30 a) Buffering salts
b) 0.001 mg/ml disodium EDTA
c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
d) 0.003 mg/ml poloxamer 401 (Pluronic®)
e) 0.0025 mg/ml sorbic acid
35 f) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity (if desired)
g) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 8 : Unpreserved Saline or Eye Drops

- 40 a) Buffering salts
b) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
c) 0.003 mg/ml poloxamer 401 (Pluronic®)
d) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity (if desired)
45 e) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 9 : Preserved Saline or Eye Drops

- 50 a) Buffering salts
b) 0.001 mg/ml disodium EDTA (if desired)
c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
d) 0.0025 mg/ml sorbic acid (if desired)
e) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity (if desired)
f) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

Example 10 : Preserved Saline or Eye Drops

- a) Buffering salts
b) 0.001 mg/ml disodium EDTA
c) 0.01 mg/ml poloxamine 1302 (Tetronic®)
d) 0.003 mg/ml poloxamer 401 (Pluronic®)

- 5 e) Mixture of methyl and propyl parabens
 f) NaCl to adjust osmolarity to isotonicity (if desired)
 g) Purified water, q.s. 100 %

10 The efficacy of the improved conditioning solution of the present invention is determined in a series of tests, the results of which are set forth in Figures 1, 2 and 3. Contact angle is the angle between a liquid surface and a solid surface and is an indication of the relative values of the force of adhesion and cohesion. The advancing angle is the contact angle achieved when additional liquid is placed onto the solid and the receding angle is the contact angle resulting when liquid is removed from the solid. A contact angle of 0° implies complete wetting of the solid by the liquid and a contact angle of 180° indicates absolute non-wetting.

15 In the present test, the efficacy of the conditioning solution of the present invention is found by measuring the contact angles of the solution on samples of various contact lens material and comparing the angle to those of cleaned samples of the same material. The proximity of the advancing and receding angles of the conditioned and cleaned lenses to its respective control is an indication of the efficacy of the conditioning solution to prevent protein build-up of the material.

20 Prior to analysis, the lens materials are cleaned with a contact lens daily cleaner, rinsed thoroughly with ultrapure water and placed inside an ultrasonic cleaner containing a 2 % Micro™ cleaning solution. The materials are rubbed gently on both sides with sterile cotton balls to remove any residual deposits and then left in the ultrasonic bath for at least 15 minutes. The materials are then rinsed with ultrapure water, recleaned with the cleaner and again rinsed thoroughly with ultrapure water. A minimum of three sample materials for each solution is used.

25 Contact angles (advancing and receding angles) are measured on each cleaned material before placing into artificial tears. The material coated with the protein is left to soak in the solution of the present invention for 15 minutes prior to being placed in the artificial tear solution. All materials are then put inside a temperature controlled oven set at 37°C for a minimum of 8 hours. Contact angles are performed on each material after treating with the protein. The materials are then cleaned with the cleaner and thoroughly rinsed with ultrapure water before final contact angles are determined.

30 In any of Figures 1, 2 and 3, each square indicates an advancing contact angle, measured under specific conditions as indicated by the numbers shown on the horizontal axis, whereas each triangle indicates a receding contact angle measured under specific conditions as indicated by the numbers shown on the horizontal axis. Vertical lines through a square or a triangle indicate the standard deviation of the respective contact angle measured. For any type of material, RGP, PMMA and HEMA, four types of experiments were conducted : Control (no conditioner) (I), conditioning with a solution comprising 0.1 % (wt/vol) Tetronic® 1302 (II), conditioning with a solution comprising 0.1 % (wt/vol) Pluronic® L 121 (III) and conditioning with a solution comprising 0.05 % (wt/vol) Tetronic® 1302 and 0.05 % (wt/vol) Pluronic® L121 (IV).

35 In any of these experiments, the contact angles were measured three times : Following conditioning (21, 31, 41) or without conditioning in case of control (11), following addition of the protein (12, 22, 32, 42) and following cleaning (13, 23, 33, 43). Further shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3 are the upper limit (50) and the lower limit (51) of the standard deviation for the advancing contact angle of the control as well as the upper limit (52) and the lower limit (53) of the standard deviation for the receding contact angle of the control.

40 As can be seen in Figure 1, an RGP control group had an advancing angle of approximately 100° and a receding angle of approximately 52°, accounting for standard deviations. Following addition of the protein but no conditioning solution and subsequent cleaning with a cleaning solution, the control group showed an advancing angle of approximately 70° and a receding angle of approximately 50°. A second RGP group was then conditioned with a 0.1 % conditioning solution of Tetronic® type 1302 and then immersed in the protein solution. Following cleaning, the advancing angle of the group closely approximated the range of the advancing angle of the control group, while the receding angle was within the control group range. A third RGP group was conditioned with 0.1 % Pluronic® type L121, immersed in protein, and subsequently cleaned. The results showed that the advancing angle was far from the control range and the receding angle was within the control range. A fourth RGP group was conditioned with a solution of 0.05 % each of Tetronic® type 1302 and Pluronic® type L121 and immersed in protein solution. Following cleaning, both the advancing angle and receding angle were found to be within the range of the control.

45 A similar test the results of which are summarized in Fig. 2, was conducted with a PMMA group. The test indicated that lens material conditioned in 0.1 % Tetronic® type 1302, immersed in protein and subsequently cleaned exhibited an advancing angle in the control and a receding angle closely approximating the control. A second PMMA group conditioned in 0.1 % Pluronic® type L121 exhibited an advancing angle within the control but a receding angle outside the control range. A third PMMA group conditioned with a 0.05 % solution of each of Tetronic® type 1302 and Pluronic® type L121 and subsequently cleaned exhibited both an advancing angle and a receding angle within the control ranges.

A similar study as above was conducted with a HEMA type group, and is summarized in Fig. 3. The study showed that a 0.1 % conditioning solution of Tetronic® type 1302 resulted in an advancing angle and receding angle both closely approximating the control. A conditioning solution of 0.1 % Pluronic® type L121 conditioning solution resulted in a receding angle within the control but an advancing angle outside of the control. A conditioning solution containing 0.05 % each of Tetronic® type 1302 and Pluronic® type L121 exhibited both an advancing angle and a receding angle within the control.

Therefore, it was found that in each case, the Tetronic® 1302 affords results approximating the control, and the mixture of the Tetronic® and Pluronic® achieves the goal of meeting the control characteristics. The use of Pluronic® alone is unacceptable. It can be said that lens material conditioned according to the present invention will be more wettable, and hence can be cleaned more easily, than such material otherwise conditioned.

15

Claims

1. A contact lens conditioning solution which comprises an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant (poloxamine type) having a hydrophile-lipophile balance of seven or below.
2. The solution of claim 1, and further comprising an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene nonionic surfactant (poloxamer type) having a hydrophile-lipophile balance of seven or below and a polyoxyethylene concentration of less than about 20 % by weight of said polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene nonionic surfactant.
3. The solution of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant is up to about 1.0 % (weight/volume) of said solution.
4. The solution of claim 2, wherein said effective amount of said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene nonionic surfactant is up to about 1.0 % by (weight/volume) of said solution.
5. The solution of claim 1, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant has a polyoxyethylene concentration between about 10 % and about 20 % by weight.
6. The solution of claim 1, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant has a molecular weight between about 3600 and about 9000.
7. The solution of claim 1, wherein said effective amount of said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant is about 0.6 % (weight/volume) of said solution.
8. The solution of claim 2, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene nonionic surfactant has a molecular weight between about 2000 and about 5000.
9. The solution of claim 2, wherein said effective amount of said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene nonionic surfactant is about 0.2 % (weight/volume) of said solution.
10. The solution of claim 1 and further comprising an effective amount of a preservative.
11. The solution of claim 1 and further comprising an effective amount of a disinfectant.
12. The solution of claim 1, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of Tetronic 701, Tetronic 702, Tetronic 901, Tetronic 1101, Tetronic 1102, Tetronic 1301, Tetronic 1302, Tetronic 1501 and Tetronic 1502.
13. The solution of claim 2, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of Pluronic L61, Pluronic L81, Pluronic L101 and Pluronic L121.
14. A method for conditioning a contact lens, comprising the step of contacting said lens with a solution having an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypolypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfa-

tant having a hydrophile-lipophile balance of seven or below.

- 5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said solution further comprises an effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant having a hydrophile-lipophile balance of seven or below and a polyoxyethylene concentration of less than about 20 % by weight of said polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene nonionic surfactant.
- 10 16. The method of claim 14, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene substituted ethylenediamine nonionic surfactant has a molecular weight between about 3600 and about 9000.
- 15 17. The method of claim 15, wherein said polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant has a molecular weight between about 2000 and about 5000.
- 20 18. The method of claim 14, wherein said effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant is up to about 1.0 % (weight/volume) of said solution.
- 25 19. The method of claim 14, wherein said effective amount of a polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene nonionic surfactant is about 0.6 % (weight/volume) of said solution.
- 30 20. A process for the manufacture of a solution according to claim 1 characterized in conveniently mixing the surfactant with the additional ingredients.
- 35 21. The use of a solution according to claim 1 for rendering the surface of a contact lens wettable.

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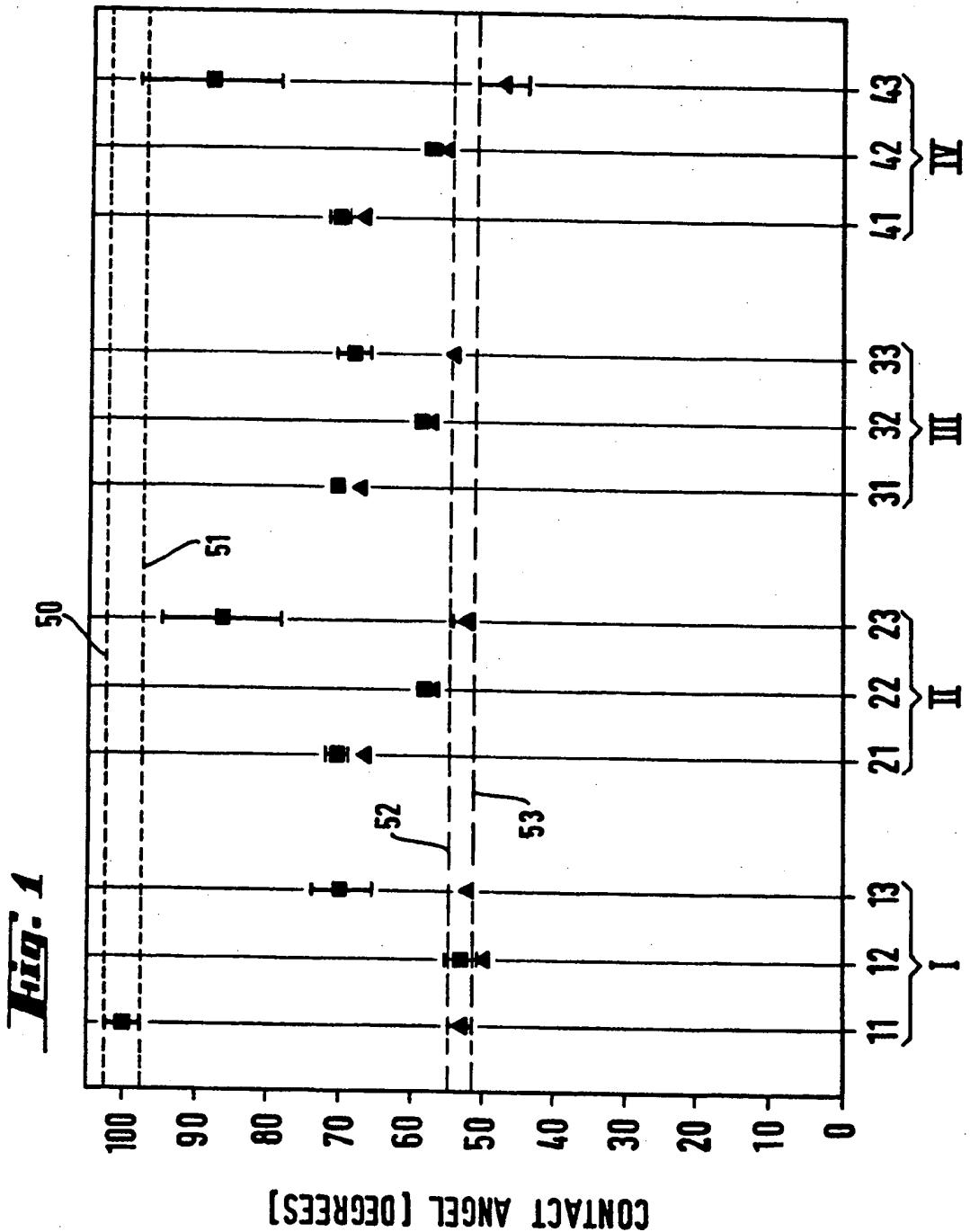
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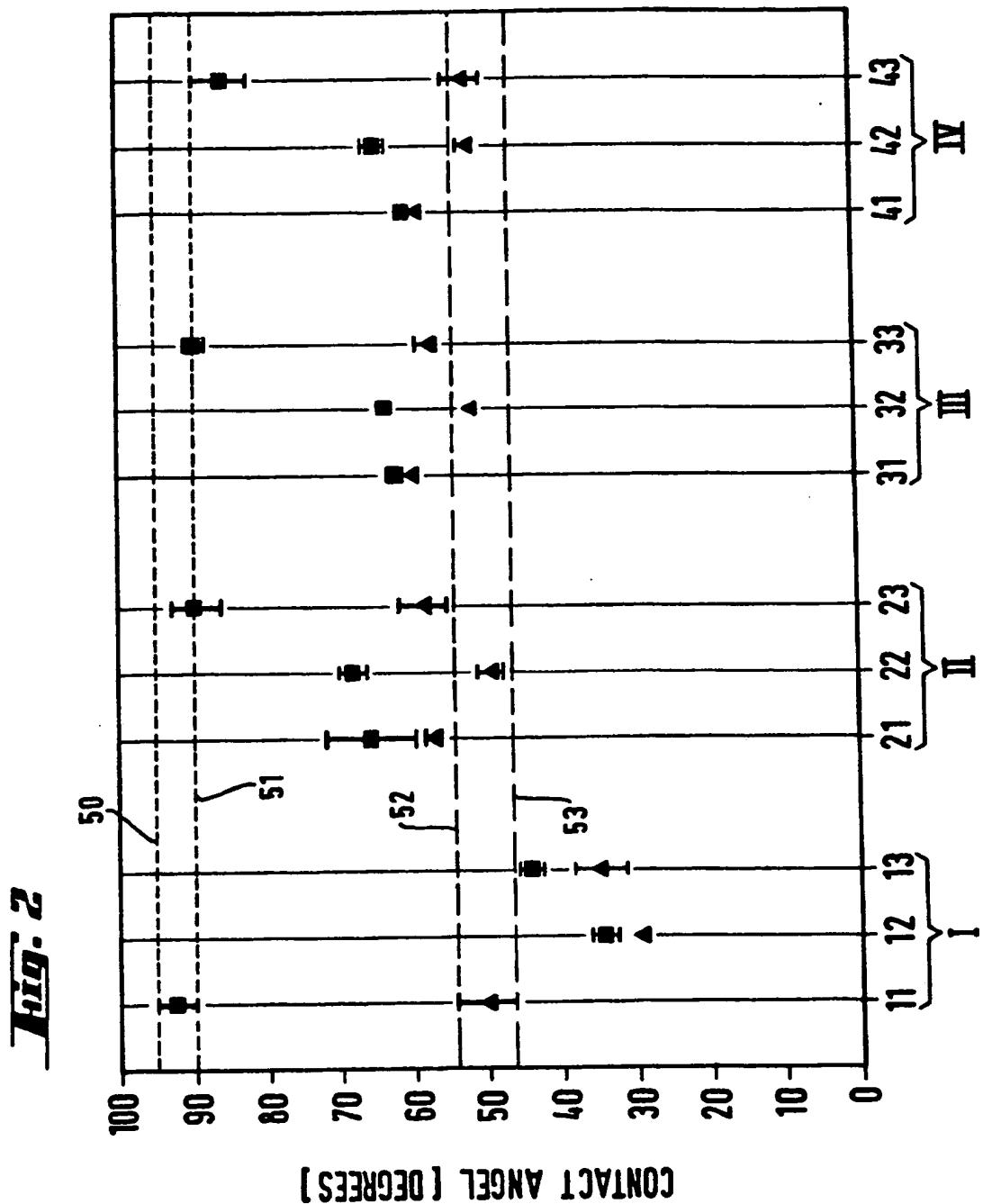
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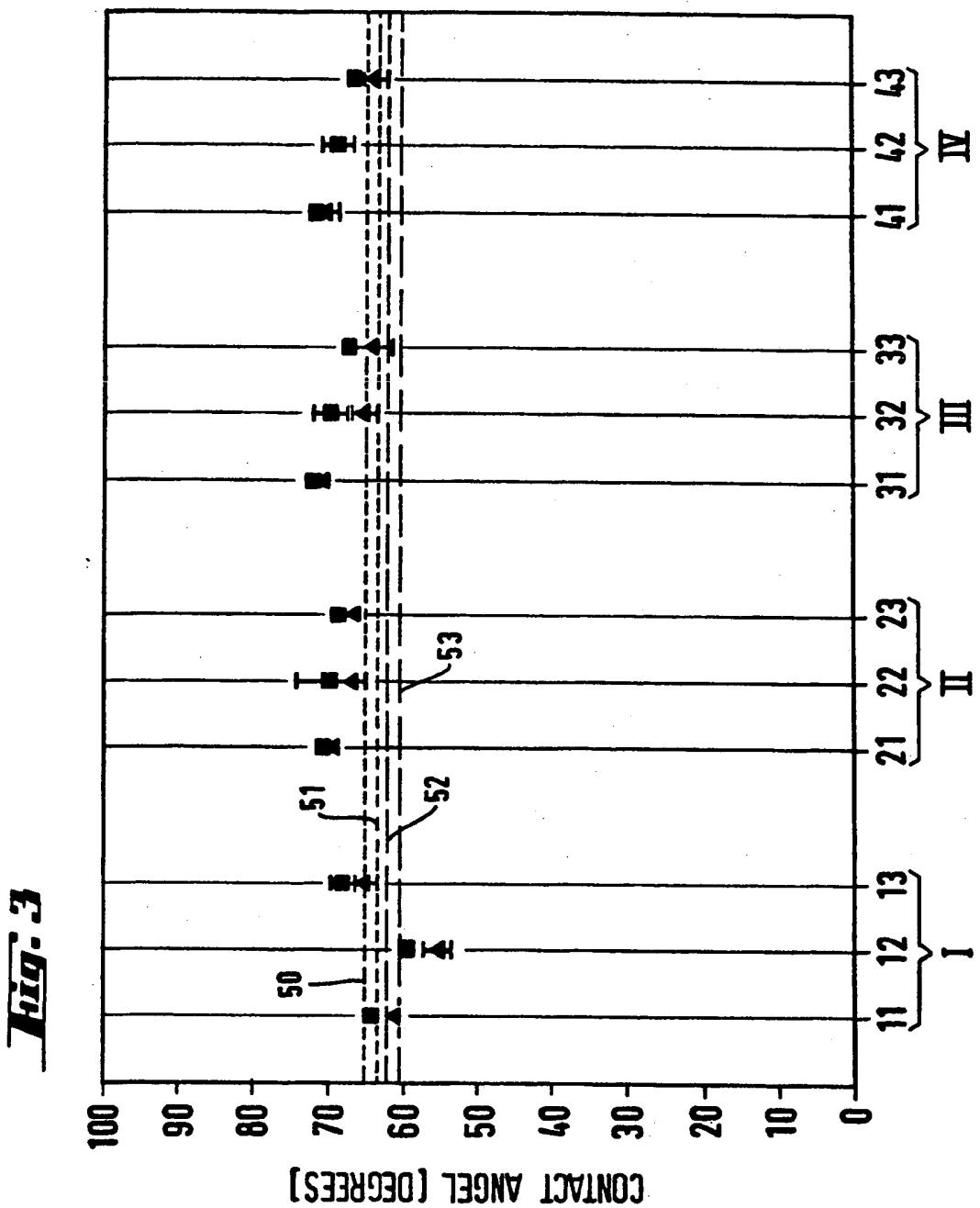
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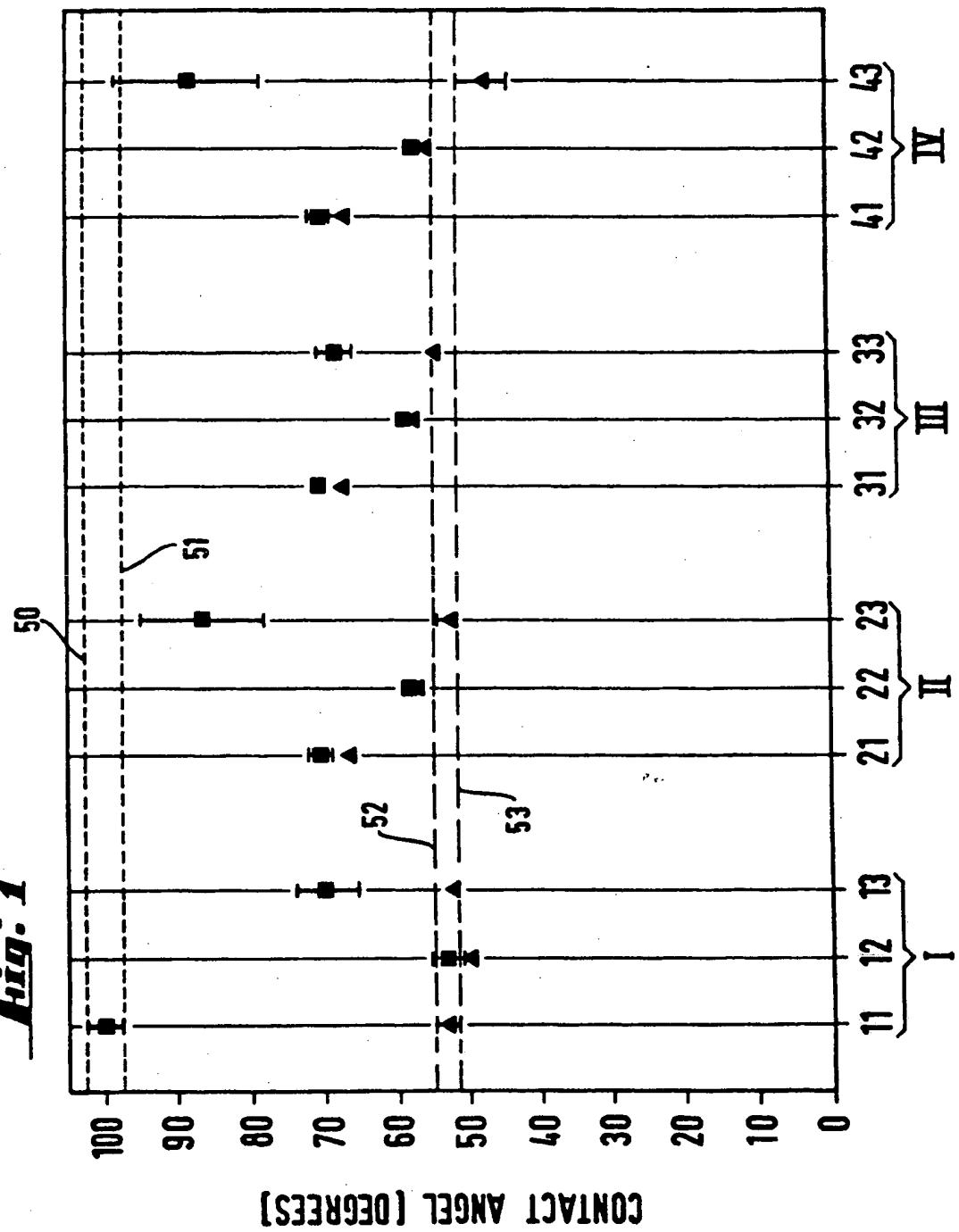
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FIG. 1





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 81 0034

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	C11D1/00 A61L2/18 G02C13/00
X	US-A-4 323 457 (C. FU) * column 3, line 20 - column 4, line 48; claims; examples * * column 5, line 12 - line 48 *	1, 3, 5-7, 10-11, 14, 16, 18-21	C11D1/00 A61L2/18 G02C13/00
A	FR-A-2 515 201 (TOYO CONTACT LENS CO.) * claims; examples *	1-21	
A	US-A-3 954 644 (J. KREZANSKI)		
A	EP-A-0 115 619 (BAUSCH & LOMB INC.) * page 8, paragraph 1 *	12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.5)
			A61L C11D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 21 AUGUST 1992	Examiner G. COUSINS-VAN STEEN	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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